State agencies, the States would be closely involved in the planning and implementation under this scheme.

Jolarpettai-Erode and Salem-Mettur Dam railway electrification

*337. SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jolarpettai-Erode and Salem-Mettur Dam (Tamil Nadu) railway electrification projects have been postponed;

(b) if so, when the project is likely to be taken up again; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the suspension of work involves the retrenchment of a large number of railway workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Shipping service between Madras and Singapore

*338. SHRI M. VINCENT: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shipping Corporation of India has any proposals to resume passenger shipping service between Madras and Singapore; and

(b) if not, whether any other private shipping company is proposed to be permitted to operate such services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) There is no objection to Director General Shipping permitting private shipping companies to operate this service subject to their fulfilling the statutory conditions. Director General of Shipping has conveyed no objection to 4 private companies in 1986-87 to operate the service subject to the ships selected by them possessing the requisite statutory certificates. No further progress has been reported by these companies.

Distributions of Pan Parag in IA flights

*339. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Pan Parag' is distributed free of cost to the Executive class on Indian Airlines;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow other companies to distribute Pan Masalas or cigerettes in the flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Pan Masala by the trade name 'Pan Parag' has been introduced as part of the meal schedule for executive class passengers on Airbus flights. Indian Airlines is paying for the Pan Masala. It has been introduced on an experimental basis, and has been found accetpable to the passengers.

(c) The present policy of Indian Airlines does not permit any companies to distribute any edible items to passengers on flights.

Cancellation of South bound trains

*340. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two southbound trains Himsagar Express between Jammu-Tawi to Kanyakumari and Janata Express between Jammu-Tawi to Madras were cancelled with effect from 17th May, 1987;